

# COLOR on Canvas

Abstract artist and Katyite Nubia Gala Seibert strives to evoke emotion and energy through her artwork

*Written by Cherri Northcutt | Photography by Edward Heard*

When you stand in front of a painting by artist Nubia Gala Seibert, it is a transformational experience. Anything can happen when the Colombian native gets ahold of a blank canvas. “I don’t always know where I’m going or what the final destination looks like, but I know when a painting is completed.”

## Growing up in Colombia

Seibert grew up in Colombia with her parents and three sisters. When she was 10, her parents bought a set of encyclopedias for the children. “I loved to look at the atlas and at all the beautiful pictures of other countries,” Seibert remembers.

As a teen, Seibert longed to get a college education. “In Colombia at that time, girls did not go to college; they were sent to secretarial school,” she shares. This helped Seibert land a job at 15 with Johnson & Johnson where she learned English. She admittedly lied about her age to gain the position, but it opened up doors for her she wouldn’t have had otherwise.

At the age of 18, Seibert and a group of friends hitchhiked from Costa Rica through two continents to Niagara Falls. “Our house was so close to the falls that the outside walls were always wet from the spray,” she remembers.

## Painting Outside the Lines

“The first time I held a paintbrush, I was 18,” Seibert says. “I got a paint-by-number kit to make a flower painting for Mother’s Day.” She did not, however, follow the numbers.

“With the extra paint, I created a picture of my grandfather’s house.” A friend encouraged Seibert to begin taking art classes. “I was the worst student because I never followed directions; I did my own thing.”

Seibert married and moved with her husband first to Houston, then to Orange County in California where they began their family. Seibert completed her education, earning a degree in business administration from California State University, but she never lost her passion for art.

“When the children started preschool, I saw an opportunity to pursue my passion,” Seibert says. “I took more classes on art design, composition, and color.” She also earned her teaching certificate and taught art to children ages 6 through 12 while she was going to school. “The children were my mentors,” Seibert shares. “They paint with such joy, freedom, and confidence. They believe in what they do.”

As an artist, Seibert chose abstract painting because she didn’t want to simply copy what she saw. “Abstract painting gives me the freedom to create something from the heart, something totally new that no one has seen before.” In all of her studies, she has never taken classes on abstract art. “I didn’t want my mind polluted. I wanted to find my own voice,” she adds.

## Unusual Methodology

Seibert admits that there is no normal day or routine. She paints when inspiration strikes, whether it is in the early hours of the morning, or at midnight. “When I paint, it’s for stretches of four or five hours, sometimes even longer.”

Nubia Siebert, an abstract painter, has had her work showcased in various galleries across the U.S.

“People here understand that art is part of life, like the ballet or symphony, and they want art that means something to them.”

- Nubia Gala Seibert



Seibert views her studio in Old Katy as her sanctuary





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Seibert says. "I start new paintings or finish works in progress; it depends on what I feel like doing that day."

Her methods are equally random. "Everything that lands in my hands becomes a painting tool," Seibert explains. "Brushes, rollers, spatulas, kitchen utensils, windshield squeegees, or even pliers can be used to scrape with." Seibert uses blank canvases to clean her brushes as she's working; those markings then become the beginning of her next painting.

### Painting with Perseverance

In the beginning of her art career, Seibert was advised that it would be hard to break in to the business. "I was told it's very difficult to get in to the galleries because you don't have any connections," Seibert remembers. "Fortunately, I forgot about that comment and approached the galleries as a business woman." With no appointment, Seibert brought her portfolio to just two galleries in Laguna Beach and Los Angeles. "The first one turned me down so I went into the second. Within one hour, I had landed a showing at that gallery."

Her career took off and shows no signs of stopping. "A benefit I never imagined to being an artist is all the places my art has taken me to," Seibert shares. She has taught art classes in orphanages and visited with wealthy art collectors. She has traveled with her art to Denmark, Singapore, Scotland, Spain, and all over the U.S. Her artwork has been featured at international art fairs such as the Los Angeles Modern and Contemporary Art Show and the Red Dot Art Fair in Miami. She has a 30-foot painting on display at Houston Community College - Katy campus and will soon have several pieces in the Harris County Courthouse jury room for Judge Debra Ibarra Mayfield.

Seibert especially appreciates the support she has received from the Katy community, with some of her work on display at the Katy Contemporary Arts Museum. "Art is an intrinsic part of the good quality of life we have here in Katy," Seibert says. "People here understand that art is part of life, like the ballet or symphony, and they want art that means something to them." KM



CHERRI NORTHCUTT is a freelance writer in Katy. She enjoys paintings, both abstract and representational.

To find out more about Nubia Seibert's exhibits and events, visit [nubiagala.com](http://nubiagala.com).



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